(iii) Community Development

(c) There had been initial delay in finalised the tenders. However, the pace of work has been accelerated recently and project is expected to follow the schedule.

(d) The project implementation plan gives the detailed schedule of different works. There are over 800 contracts in this project to be finalised during the project's life span. The proposals will be finalised as per the schedule.

Physical Targets for Drilling, Mining and value for MECL

*407. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the physical targets for drilling, mining and value for the Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) for the last three years;

(b) whether these targets were completed;

(c) the reasons for the dismal performance of MECL; and

(d) the steps being taken to increase the efficiency of MECL?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) The Physical Targets for drilling, mining and value for the last three years are as under:

Year	Drilling (in mts)	Mining (in mts)	Value of work/ Turnover
			Rs. in lakhs.
1994-95	2,00,000	4,000	4,128
1995-96	2,25,000	4,000	5,102
1996-97	2,25,000	3,500	4,668

(b) Targets were not achieved.

(c) The main reasons for non-achievements of the targets by Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) are as follows:

(i) Reduction in Budgetary support to MECL, for promotional work from the Government.

(ii) Setting up of parallel exploration facilities by many clients, like, Coal India Limited, Neyvelly Lignite Corporation, National Aluminium Company Limited, etc.

(iii) In the Liberalised economic scenario, competition increased since number of renowned international Companies opened their offices in India and number of small Indian Companies started similar activity in the private sector.

(iv) Due to reduction in budgetary support from the Government, the Company could not find adequate funds for proper maintenance of machinery and replacement of old drills.

(v) Idling of resources due to reduction in job for MECL from its many clients.

(d) Following steps have been taken to increase efficiency of MECL:

The Government constituted an Expert Committee for suggesting a Revival Plan for MECL. The Expert Committee has made 22 recommendation to make the Company economically viable. The Company has made following Plans for its revival on the aforesaid report:—

(i) *Short-terms Plans*

- Major thrust on work generation.
- improving productivity of drills by strengthening the Projects by posting senior officers with adequate delegation of powers and supporting staff at Projects sites. - improving maintenance of equipment.
- timely supply of spares.
- daily monitoring of the progress.
- emphasis on human resource development, to boost morale of the employees by way of promotion to stagnating personnel and imparting regular training.

(ii) *Medium-term Plans:* Contact has been made with the Various Development clients by creating a separate Planning and Business Development Division and diversification into new areas like, consultancy services, remote sensing,

environmental studies, etc. due to which the Company's Order book position improved considerably.

(iii) *Long-term Plans:*

- Strategic alliance with large Indian Companies, State Government Organisations, Multi-national Companies
- Underground mine construction on turn-key basis
- increase in contractual jobs
- commercial mining of selected minerals
- diversification into hi-tech areas.

पंजाब के सीमावर्ती क्षेत्रें में बड़े उद्योगों की स्थापना

*408. **श्री इकबाल सिंह:** क्या उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार बेरोजगारी दूर करने के उद्देश्य से पंजाब के सीमावर्ती क्षेत्रों में बड़े उद्योग स्थापित करने का विचार रखती है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण है?

उद्योग मंत्री (श्री मुरासोली मारन): (क) से (ग) सरकार ने, उदारीकृत नई औद्योगिक नीति के अंतर्गत अधिकतर उद्योगों को लाइसेंसमुक्त कर दिया है और उद्योग के स्थापना स्थल संबंधी निर्णय उद्यमियों के विवेक पर छोड़ दिया है। इस नई नीति के परिणामस्वरूप, 1.8.91 से 31.3.97 की अवधि में पंजाब राज्य में बड़े और मझौले उद्योगों हेतु कुल 1476 औद्योगिक उद्यमी ज्ञापन दायर किये गये हैं इनमें कुल निवेश 18,467 करोड़ रुपये का होगा और इनके अंतर्गत 3.76 लाख अतिरिक्त रोजगारों की संभवना है। उपर्युक्त उद्यमी ज्ञापनों में से 170 औद्योगिक उद्यमी ज्ञापन पंजाब के तीन सीमावर्ती जिलों के लिए दायर किये गये हैं। इन ज्ञापनों में 1829 करोड़ रुपये के निवेश और 31000 से अधिक संभावित रोजगारों का प्रस्ताव है।

Mining Activities in Bailadila

*409. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether mining activities in Bailadila had stopped in March, 1997;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to start mining activity and help the tribals?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) The mining activities in Bailadila had stopped for a period of 18 working days from 27.2.97 to 19.3.97.

(b) The Madhya Pradesh State Forest Department directed NMDC to stop its mining activities in Bailadila in compliance of an order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court banning non-forest activities in the forest area except with the permission of the concerned authority.

(c) After obtaining necessary clearance from the State Government and the Ministry of Environment and Forests, working permission for operating the mines had been obtained on 19.3.1997 and mining operations were recommended with effect from 20.3.97.

Development of ceramic complex in Andhra Pradesh

*410. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up/ develop ceramic complex in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Ceramic Industry is a delicensed industry. Entrepreneurs are free to set up any unit pertaining to Ceramic Industry in the country based on their commercial judgement.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Utilisation of Funds Released for the Development of the Hill areas of Uttar Pradesh

*411. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of funds given by the Planning Commission to the U.P. Government for the development of hill areas, roads etc. for the year 1997-98;